

III. Remarks

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action, applicants have carefully studied the references cited by the Examiner and the Examiner's comments relative thereto. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are pending in the application. Claim 2 stands withdrawn, claim 5 has been canceled, and claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from claim 5, and claims 4, 6 and 7 have been amended in accordance with the changes to claim 1 and cancellation of claim 5. The above amendments to the claims find support in the originally filed claims 1-10; no new matter is introduced. Further, these amendments do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration or a new search. Accordingly, entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP2000-184686. In addition, claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of JP2000-184686 in view of the Kato et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2003/0062227. These rejections are all rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, while applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that the cited reference teaches the invention as previously set forth in claim 1, in order to expedite prosecution the applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations found in original claim 5. The limitations of the previously intervening claim 4 have not been included in currently amended claim 1.

As already appreciated by the Examiner, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the brake system set forth in claim 1, wherein said guide rail is provided with an upper surface and a pair of side surfaces each forming an acute angle with respect to said upper surface, and said slider member is provided with a bottom surface engaging said upper surface, a fixed slide block engaging one of said side surfaces while said moveable slide block engaging the other of said side surfaces.

It is therefore submitted that amended claim 1 invention is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, as the application includes allowable generic claim 1, applicants are entitled to consideration of claim 2 (currently withdrawn), which depends from claim 1. The claims 2-4 and 6-10 each depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and contain all of the limitations thereof. Therefore, each of these claims is patentable at least on the basis of its dependency from a patentable base claim.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to modify any of the language of the claims, applicants' attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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